(c) Changes made in customs and excise duties on petroleum products on 18th August, 2004 and 30th September, 2004 are estimated to result in a revenue loss of Rs. 2520 crores for the remaining part of the financial years. As regards the impact of changes on consumers and oil companies as per the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, benefits of customs and excise duty reductions have been appropriately passed on to the consumers by the oil companies.

. ***Statement***

Changes made in customs and excise duties on petroleum products

Description of goods	Changes made on on 30.09.2004		Changes made 18.8.2004			
	Central Exicse		Customs		Customs	
	From	To	From	To	From	To
Petrol	26%	23%	20%	15%	—	—
Diesel	11%	8%	20%	15%	—	—
LPG	—	—	10%	5%	—	—
Kerosene for Public Distribution System	16%	12%	10%	5%	_____	—
Naphtha for manufacture of Specified polymers					10%	5%

Sickness in Industry Sector

1962. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sickness ratio in the industry is very high due to N.P.A.;

(b) whether Government have gone into this to know the reasons for such a high sickness rate in the industry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that change in the internal market scenario

and entry of multinationals and change in the import and export policy are some of the reasons; and

(d) how Government would ensure that sales tax and excise structure and increase in tariffs are not effected very frequently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of studies have been carried out at the behest of Govt. of India/Reserve Bank of India to examine various issues relating to flow of credit to industrial sector especially to SSI sector and guidelines have been issued to banks to enhance the credit flow based on their recommendations. There are numbers of factors, which lead to Non-performing assets in Industrial Sector. These *inter-alia* include deficiency in credit appraisal and supervision, Inefficient management of the unit financed, Non-viability or sickness of the unit due to change in technology demand pattern and other policy etc., Non-completion of project due to cost, time, overruns and other factors, such as non-availability of raw materials etc., Labour problems, Natural calamities, Environmental factors such as pollution control, ecological damage etc.

(d) It has been the continued endeavour of the Govt. to formulate tax policies which streamlines the systems rather than hampering it. All policy changes are carried out after due consideration and detailed deliberations.

Kisan credit cards to farmers

†1963. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the credit cards issued to farmers in the country from the year 2001 to 2004, State-wise/Year-wise;

(b) whether separate targets have been set for each State for the operation of these credit cards alongwith the number of credit cards issued *vis-a-vis* the target; and

(c) the names of the State, which have failed in achieving the target alongwith the reasons for slow progress there and what are the reasons

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.